

CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION

MINUTES — May 26, 2004 Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Gary Smith, Maureen McCoy, Sue Chenault, Glenn Eades, Ken Bechmann; Youth Advocate Emily Thompson

ABSENT: Kris Colt, Julie Barnfather

CITY STAFF: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Joel Pfundt, Transportation Planner; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

AUDIENCE: None

*Note: **Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.***

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:10 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Redmond Trails Commission Minutes of April 28, 2004 were approved with the following amendments:

- Page 5, first paragraph: Delete “random”
- Page 5, third paragraph: Move “PSE” to before the word trail: “Gorremans will write a grant (TEA-21) to hire a consultant to design the paving of the PSE trail...”

Motion for approval of April 28, 2004 RTC minutes as amended by:
Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Bechmann

Motion carried: Unanimous 5-0

III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None present

IV. ITEMS OF INTEREST/HANDOUTS

A. Recognition of Emily Thompson

Youth advocate, Emily Thompson, was recognized with a certificate for her valuable contribution to the Trails Commission during her 2002-04 term. She noted she has been working on recruiting a replacement.

B. King County Regional Trails Map

Cox noted the printing of cities listed on the King County trails map was faint and difficult to read. The map would be reprinted with darker print. Also included was a handout listing the 20 regional trails.

C. Transit System and Bike system Plans Open House

Handout of the primary and secondary bicycle corridors would be used at the open house for the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and bike system plan.

D. Trail Mileage Information

Handout of the proposed and existing trail network with mileage of the backbone system. (The 11x17 map is in the PRO Plan.)

E. Redmond Reporter Article and Guide to Trails

Eades showed a copy of the *Redmond Reporter* with a good article covering the City's efforts to enhance bicycle routes. It also included a guide to the City with information on parks and listing all trails.

V. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

Joel Pfundt, Transportation Planner, stated that the City is required by the state to do an annual update of the TIP, which is a planning

document. The long-range plans are prioritized over the 6-year period. A handout was distributed of a map and list of projects for last year, including descriptions and funding for the projects. Pfundt reviewed the list of projects, those to be added and removed. The Sammamish River Trail (SRT) pedestrian bridge, the Bel-Red sidewalk improvements, the West Lake Sammamish Parkway widening, and other projects would be removed by the end of 2004 due to a substantially completed status. The TMP would be finalized this year as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The following updates (not on the list) were given:

- Bear & Evans Creek Trail: Portions of the trail have been built. The unfunded portion of the trail has decreased to approximately four million dollars.
- PSE and Rose Hill section: Described as connecting to 132nd. Potential to connect to the end of 141st at Willow Creek Park. That would be included in the description as well.
- Willows Road widening (116th to 124th): It was too expensive (\$10 million) in light of other priority projects; instead, the road was resurfaced. Will reprioritize that item on the project list.
- 85th Street Bridge rehabilitation project: Fix the puddling/settling in the bike lanes.

Pfundt highlighted a BNSF right-of-way corridor conceptual design study for a possible new project. This would include public involvement and hiring a landscape architect and designer. Pfundt is attempting to add this project to the TIP and fund through the budget process. Cox noted a park bond would help with this project, and the Park Board has been exploring the timing of the bond with Trust for Public Lands. Staff is anticipating one or two of the key trails would be part of the bond.

Pfundt reported the transportation CIP budget for the next term would be tight. Cox noted the operating budget must be cut by 6% city-wide.

Pfundt also reported the Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) will be doing a complete reconstruction of the City's downtown transit center with funding from Sound Transit. Staff is currently working with City Council to get a resolution to acquire the funding from Sound Transit. The Park Board, Design Review Board, and Planning Commission, along with public input, have responded positively to this project. Construction is anticipated for late 2004, early 2005. McCoy asked if a restroom was included in the design. Pfundt noted that some funding was probably available; however, neither the City nor the County wants to maintain it. It may be possible to set up inclusion of a public restroom through a requirement from the developer.

Another Sound Transit project will be funded on Redmond Way and 85th Street. A westbound HOV lane on Redmond Way would be added, as well as a sidewalk on the north side of Redmond Way from 140th to 132nd. The City is working with the City of Kirkland and Sound Transit on this project.

Two major themes of the TIP update process:

- 1) Programs around the City
- 2) Outstanding grants (e.g., PSE trail, East Lake Sammamish Parkway)

Cox also reported staff will be asking City Council to approve a resolution to apply for a state IAC grant of \$108,000 to purchase the Bear Creek trail segment at Avondale and Avondale Way (at the triangle). This property would complete the BECT link between Avondale Road and Sammamish River Trail.

Pfundt will speak with City Council regarding prioritizing projects, although, he noted, not much funding would be available. Commissioners also reviewed the TIP development project schedule (handout).

Cox noted that many of the trails appear in the Bikes and Pedestrian segment due to classification of trails as transportation.

Commissioners were invited to email any questions or comments to Cox or Pfundt.

B. Transportation Master Plan (TMP)

Cox reported that Charlier, the consultant from Boulder, Colorado who is working on the TMP, has sent additional materials identifying changes made in the TMP Bicycle System Plan text and maps. Trails would be addressed within the bike plan text. Improvements were made in their new mapping. *Commissioners were asked to make comments to Cox and he would relay them to Charlier.* Cox offered to invite Charlier to appear at a RTC meeting to give a review at some point in the process of getting the TMP adopted. Commissioners agreed and recommended staff to do so. *Cox noted the target month for the draft is September and he would invite Charlier for that time.*

C. Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Cox reported that staff received support at the Park Board meeting via a motion to accept the PRO Plan, subject to minor revisions. The support

and recommendation would be presented to City Council at the June 1 meeting.

Cox asked Commissioners to review and accept a draft memo written by staff expressing general support from RTC to adopt the PRO Plan. Cox emphasized the PRO Plan would need to be adopted as criteria for the 2004 IAC grant application. The minor revisions would be shown to Commissioners next month. Cox noted amendments to the PRO Plan could be made at any time over the 6-year period before the next update.

Motion for approval of the letter of support for the PRO Plan subject to minor revisions by: Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Bechmann

Motion carried: Unanimous 5-0

D. National Trails Day – June 5, 2004

Smith reported that Linda Gorremans, Park Planner, has the logistics lined up for the National Trails Day event on 6/5/04. Cox covered the schedule list and tasks to be done.

Two National Trails Day banners and a poster will be available for the booth. *McCoy asked that a flyer be put at Luke McRedmond's kiosk. Chenault asked that a flyer be put at the Leary Way Park kiosk. Staff will follow up.*

Commissioners' volunteer hours at the event:

- Bechmann: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Colt: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Smith: 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Chenault: morning (if she is available)
- Thompson: morning

Eades noted the Pedestrian-Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) did not respond to volunteer timeslots.

Staff will provide the following items:

- Trail maps (150)
- Bike maps (300)
- PRO Plan map (11x17) (laminated, with push pins and marking pens provided to denote areas)
- Watershed maps
- QFC will donate water (if not, staff will)

- Ice

Smith and Chenault will bring ice chests.

Cox noted the PRO Plan map would need to be run again with darker lines and names to provide a clearer frame of reference. The Watershed map is included on the back side.

E. Commission “Talk Time”

- Trail Tour

Smith announced that he and Barnfather and possibly Arnie Tomac (PBAC) will walk the east-west PSE link to Rose Hill in mid-June, and invited all to join.

McCoy proposed Commissioners walk the PSE trail from the Red-Wood Road down to the new Sammamish River bridge (about a 10-minute walk). Cox noted the bridge would probably be open in July. Bechmann suggested that it would be a good time for discussion regarding the trail design after the walk. Cox reported that the City tried for a TEA-21 grant for that project, and that Carol Vogel, consultant/designer, concluded the paved trail would be doable.

Commissioners agreed that a full tour would not be needed; rather, they would choose dates and meet at the two designated locations to do the walks. Evenings, between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. were preferred.

McCoy will organize and schedule the Red-Wood walk for mid-July, after the 5th but before the 18th to accommodate as many Commissioners as possible. Smith will organize and schedule the Rose Hill walk for mid-June.

F. Youth Advocate Interviews

Smith noted that Commissioner Colt talked with one youth advocate prospect, but decided to ask Thompson to recruit. Thompson reported she put an announcement in the high school daily flyer. She also gave the application to the school's career center. She will follow up on returned applications there, as well as the Parks Administrative office.

There are two interested youths who will have their packets in by June 1.

McCoy suggested setting up interviews tentatively for June 14. *She, Smith, and Thompson will interview Monday, June 14, from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., at ORSCC, Room 201. Staff will reserve the room.*

McCoy noted that both applicants are seniors and are aware of the monthly commitment. Thompson noted that participation as a youth advocate would most likely count toward their high school government credit.

G. Summer Meeting Dates

Smith asked Commissioners to consider whether or not they would like to skip RTC's August meeting. Cox noted in the past two years Commissioners have not met in August. Since trail tours would be taken in June and July, along with regular meetings in those months, Commissioners opted to skip the August meeting.

Motion for approval to skip the regular RTC meeting for August by:

Commissioner Chenault

Second by: Commissioner McCoy

Motion carried: Unanimous 5-0

H. Derby Days

Cox announced that Derby Days would be on Saturday, July 10, to include a parade and a festival. He asked Commissioners if they would like to jointly hold a booth with Park Board, providing information to the public. He noted the Park Board has not committed to a booth yet.

Cox explained that the event and venue has changed somewhat and Departments would not be as visible.

Commissioners concluded that Derby Days was close to the National Trails Day event, and that also, people would be coming with kids to the Derby Days carnival, not to inquire about trails. *Commissioners agreed not to have a Derby Days booth. Cox will convey this decision to the Park Board.* McCoy invited the Park Board to join RTC at the National Trails Day event.

I. Letters of Support for Grant Applications

Cox presented two letters from RTC supporting grant applications regarding the following:

- BECT corridor: land acquisition grant with IAC for the property at the Avondale triangle

- TEA-21 grant for the 12-foot PSE trail from Red-Wood Road, west to SRT

Motion for approval to authorize Chair Smith to sign the two letters of support on behalf of the Trails Commission by: Commissioner Eades

Second by: Commissioner Chenault

Motion carried: Unanimous 5-0

J. Election of RTC Officers

Cox clarified for the record that Colt's term would be ending in 2005, and Chenault's term would end in 2006-07.

It was the unanimous will of the Commission to retain Smith as Chairperson and Bechmann as Vice Chair of the RTC for the 2004-05 term.

K. Bids for Evans Trail Construction

Cox announced that bids opened today, May 26, for the segment of the Evans trail construction from 95th Street to Union Hill Road. A building permit would be issued from King County next week.

The engineer's estimate to build the trail was \$1.2 million. OHNO Construction won the lowest bid today at \$1.5 million (a higher figure due to the escalating price of steel). Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director, would ask Council for the additional money in order to move forward with it. The construction would be this summer.

L. Rose Hill Project Endorsement Letter

Chair Smith asked staff to draft a letter from him, Arnie Tomac (PBAC), Cox, and Hopkins to Dave Rhodes, Public Works Director, endorsing/supporting the conceptual design for the Rose Hill PSE Trail project. ***Staff will draft the letter.*** Transportation Department has brought the subject forward to Public Works. It was agreed that Parks would manage the project with Transportation's money and support.

The project is contingent upon next year's funding. PBAC money for that project would remain intact for parks' use after the first of the year. However, due to budget constraints, that money could be reduced or removed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:
Wednesday, June 30, 2004
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center
7:00 p.m.**